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alkanoyl, nitro, amino, dialkylamino or trifluoromethyl groups;
the term "alkyl" refers to groups having 1 to 10 carbon atoms;
the term "alkoxy" refers to groups having 1 to 8 carbon atoms;
the term "cycloalkyl" refers to groups having 3 to 7 carbon
atoms; and the term "alkanoyl" refers to groups having 2 to 9
carbon atoms.

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 stands rejected under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating therein the specific definitions of the terms "arylalkyl", "alkoxy", "cycloalkyl" and "alkanoyl" set forth on pages 4 and 5 of the specification. The term "cycloalkylalkyl" has been rewritten as requested by the Examiner. Furthermore, in retyping claim 1 Applicant has attempted to make clear that the punctuation after R₄ is a comma and not an apostrophe. This has not been noted as an amendment because it is believed that no change is actually being made.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 to 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Petrillo in view of Ondetti et al. (patents 4,105,776, 4,154,935 and 4,234,489), Krapcho and British patents (2,027,025 and 2,028,327). The rejection is respectfully traversed and the Examiner is asked to reconsider his position in view of the following remarks.

The primary reference, Petrillo, discloses phosphinyl-alkanoyl prolines; the 3-, 4- and 5-positions of the proline ring are unsubstituted. The secondary references disclose mercaptoacyl prolines having various 3-, 4- and 5-substituents and also mercaptoacyl proline wherein the proline ring is unsubstituted. The Examiner has taken the position that the phosphinylalkanoyl prolines are analogs of the mercaptoacyl prolines and that any modification made to the proline nucleus in the mercaptoacyl series would be obvious in the phosphinyl-alkanoyl series. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no basis in the prior art for drawing this analogy and that these series of compounds are, in fact, nonanalogous.)

Nothing in the prior art suggests that it would be desirable to modify the phosphinylalkanoyl proline of Petrillo with various 3-, 4- and 5-substituents. It should be noted that at the time of the filing of the application that matured into the Petrillo reference (4,168,267) various substituents on the proline nucleus in the mercaptoacyl proline series were already known. United States patent 4,105,776, issued in August of 1978 discloses hydroxy and alkyl groups as substituents on the proline nucleus. However, when Petrillo filed his application that has since matured into the primary reference he, a person of at least ordinary skill in the art, did not see the substituents as part of his invention. Absent prior art showing the equivalence of the phosphinylalkanoyl and mercaptoacyl series, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has found the subject matter of claims 3 to (6) and 11 to 13 to be allowable. These

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